

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08961 031724Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 L-03 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /081 W  
-----078266 040959Z /16

R 031720Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5616  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 08961

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: SHUM, UY, PEPR, SP, US  
SUBJECT: INQUIRY CONCERNING ALLEGED POLITICAL PRISONER

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM SOCIALIST (PSOE) SENATOR FOR ASTURIAS RAFAEL LUIS FERNANDEZ, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE FROM PRISON IN URUGUAY OF FELLOW ASTURIAN JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ DEL MONTE. FERNANDEZ RECENTLY WAS ASKED TO INTERCEDE BY ALVAREZ DEL MONTE'S WIFE, WHO TOLD FERNANDEZ THAT HER HUSBAND IS SERVING NINE YEARS IN THE "PENAL DE LIBERTAD" FOR "POLITICAL" CRIMES.

2. WHILE WE REALIZE THE OBVIOUS LIMITS ON WHAT EMBASSY MONTIVIDEO CAN OR SHOULD DO IN SUCH A CASE, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO FERNANDEZ' REQUEST. CONSEQUENTLY, ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO COULD PROVIDE US ON THE ALVAREZ DEL MONTE CASE, PARTICULARLY REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR HIS RELEASE, WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL HERE. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO US IF WE COULD PROVIDE FERNANDEZ WITH A STATUS REPORT ON USG EFFORTS AND POLICY WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL PRISONERS GENERALLY IN URUGUAY.

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3. FYI WE BELIEVE FERNANDEZ' REQUEST DERIVES IN PART FROM THE PSOE'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY. PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS LUIS YANEZ AND GUILLERMO GALEOTE, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A SWING THROUGH BOLIVIA, CHILE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND BRAZIL, TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY FOUND MONTEVIDEO BY FAR THE BLEAKEST, MOST DEPRESSING CAPITAL THEY VISITED. THEY BELIEVED THE

REGIME WAS DEEPLY DUG IN AND THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE LITTLE  
THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE SHORT TERM. EVEN SO, THEY  
EXPRESSED PARTICULAR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THEIR AMBASSADOR,  
WHO THEY THOUGHT COULD BE DOING MORE. TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION EXCHANGE, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MADRID08961  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014